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What student concerns do you feel the DASB should address?

An issue that is prevalent amongst De Anza students is the time taken for them to graduate as well as the pressure of graduating within two years. I think this problem arises from three factors: students feel overwhelmed or confused when planning their education goal, the amount of peer-to-peer misinformation, and certain class series that prolong their time at De Anza.

I appreciate the availability of academic counselors, but often their plans and suggestions are prescriptive to a general overall population. This makes many students hesitant to seek counseling since they would be given the same information that they can receive from their friends. This leads to my second point of misinformation.

Students might receive wrong information from their peers which inadvertently leads to them taking fall-through classes. A development of clear, readily available guidelines and resources to consult and consider before making and planning their education would alleviate the pressure. This problem is also common in relation to choosing professors which makes me deeply appreciative of the project the Ad Hoc Committee is now pioneering.

Lastly, certain class series such as ESL or EWRT bundles courses force many international students to bear extra weight that they did not anticipate when first coming to De Anza. The college markets 2 years to graduation or transfer, yet many international students arrive only to discover they have to take a full year of non-transferable courses before starting formal major courses. This can be addressed through transparency when the college is advertising internationally, so students are prepared for this reality before coming in. Another solution would be the re-evaluation of these course series or the method of placement. I have found that many international students have high English reading and writing abilities, yet they have to take ESL classes since their high schools were not instructed primarily in English. I understand that this poses the risk of placing students in classes too high for their abilities which is why I acknowledge that this is a difficult balance to strike.